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# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**September 5, 2000**

## **EAST COUNTY AGENTS SEIZE A TOTAL OF 731 LBS. OF MARIJUANA OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS**

**BOULEVARD, CA:** On August 23, 2000 at approximately 7:00AM, U.S. Border Patrol Agents working in O'Neill Valley saw a red Ford pick-up truck turn south off of Old Highway 80 and proceed toward the border. A short time later, the pick-up truck returned north and re-entered Old Highway 80. Due to the proximity to the border, O'Neill Valley is commonly used as a pick-up point for both illegal aliens and illicit narcotics.

Agents stopped the vehicle on Interstate 8 near the Boulder Creek Bridge. As the Agents approached the vehicle, they could smell a strong odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle. A search of the pick-up truck revealed a total of 79 bundles of marijuana found in 3 burlap bags- one bag in the cab of the pick-up, and two bags in the bed of the pick-up. The 79 bundles of marijuana grossed 209 lbs. and had a street value of \$73,750.00. The driver, a male U.S. citizen, along with the marijuana was turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration for further investigation.

**CAMPO, CA:** On August 29, 2000 at approximately 9:30PM agents working in the Tierra Del Sol area saw a set of footprints leading north from the border fence. The agents began following the tracks. A short distance later, the agents found four green army style duffel bags hidden in the brush. Inside the duffel bags, were 100 cellophane wrapped bundles of marijuana weighing 258 lbs. valued at \$90,405.00. No one was arrested. The marijuana was transported back to the Campo Station where it was later turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration for further investigation.

**PINE VALLEY, CA:** On August 31, 2000 at approximately 6:30PM Agents stopped a suspicious 1979 Chevrolet pick-up on a side road south of the Interstate 8 Checkpoint near Pine Valley, CA. When the agents approached the vehicle they noted a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. Once the driver and passenger exited the vehicle the agents saw cellophane wrapped bundles of marijuana behind the seat of the pick-up. The agents found a total of 70 bundles of marijuana in the pick-up valued at \$92,400.00 and weighing a total of 264 lbs. The driver, passenger, and the marijuana were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration for further investigation.